

CA20N
SM
-1998
B76

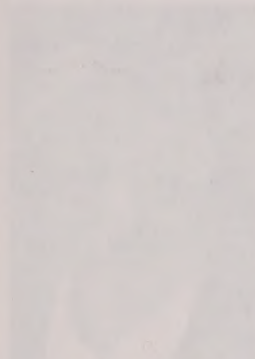
3 1761 11895082 3

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL
SERVICES

1998-1999 Business plan

CAZON
SM
-1998
B76

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



It is an honour to present the 1998-1999 Business Plan for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This plan outlines the ministry's vision, mission, and strategic priorities for the coming year. It is a plan that is rooted in the values of respect, dignity, and compassion, and it is a plan that is designed to meet the needs of the people of Ontario.

The plan is organized into four main sections: the vision and mission, the strategic priorities, the operational plan, and the financial plan. The vision and mission section sets out the ministry's long-term goals and objectives. The strategic priorities section identifies the key areas of focus for the ministry, such as community development, social services, and human resources. The operational plan details the specific programs and services that the ministry will provide, and the financial plan outlines the budget for the coming year.

I am confident that this plan will provide a clear and comprehensive overview of the ministry's work for the coming year. I encourage all members of the public to take the time to read and understand this plan, as it is a key document in the ministry's efforts to improve the lives of the people of Ontario.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Ministry of Community and Social Services
1998-1999 Business Plan


1998-1999 Business Plan

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is committed to providing a wide range of services to the people of Ontario. This plan outlines the ministry's vision, mission, and strategic priorities for the coming year. It is a plan that is rooted in the values of respect, dignity, and compassion, and it is a plan that is designed to meet the needs of the people of Ontario.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services is committed to providing a wide range of services to the people of Ontario. This plan outlines the ministry's vision, mission, and strategic priorities for the coming year. It is a plan that is rooted in the values of respect, dignity, and compassion, and it is a plan that is designed to meet the needs of the people of Ontario.

[Signature]

The Honourable [Name]
Minister of Community and Social Services



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761118950823>

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Hon. Janet Ecker

I am pleased to present the 1998-99 business plan for the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We have worked hard to implement reforms in almost every part of the ministry's business over the past year.

Our priority has been the reform of Ontario's welfare system. We reached an important milestone in welfare reform with the proclamation of the *Ontario Works Act* and the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act* this year, the first major reform of the province's welfare system in over 40 years. Through this legislation, we are restoring welfare to its original purpose: a transitional program of last resort to those truly in need, with a stepping stone back to work and independence. We have kept our promise to create a meaningful income and support program to meet the needs of people with disabilities separate from the welfare system.

Our reforms and Ontario's improving economy are producing results. Over a quarter of a million people have stopped relying on welfare since 1995. In the months ahead, the government intends to build on the gains already made.

Community placements in Ontario Works, the government's workfare program, will be expanded, so that even more people will work for their welfare benefits. New funding announced in this year's Budget will help single parents break the cycle of welfare dependency.

Another of our priorities has been child welfare reform. We are responding to concerns we heard that more needs to be done to protect the province's most vulnerable children. We will be providing additional funding to continue the reforms began last year. This funding will be used to provide better training for front-line workers, increase the number of child protection staff and revitalize foster care.

Ontario's focus on early intervention and prevention for children at risk continues. The Healthy Babies, Healthy Children initiative is well underway with screening and home visiting now taking place. Ontario is the first province in Canada to provide a province-wide initiative of this kind. We enriched our funding commitment for this program in this year's Budget.

Implementation of "Making Services Work For People" local plans will begin. The aim of this multi-year initiative is to restructure social services to better meet people's needs. We will take the advice we heard from thousands of people and will implement changes to make the system more effective for the people it serves, and to free up money for reinvestment in early intervention and prevention services, before people's needs become more serious.

I look forward to continuing this important work on behalf of the government.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janet Ecker".

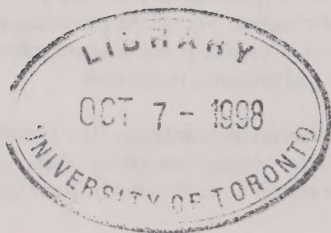
The Honourable Janet Ecker
Minister of Community and Social Services

MINISTRY VISION

Our vision continues to be an affordable and effective system of community and social services that supports and invests:

- in families and communities, to encourage responsibility and accountability;
- in adults, so they can live as independently as possible;
- in a services system, in which children are safe and people most in need receive support.

The ministry will be guided by the principles of shared responsibility, accountability, integrated and client-focused services, and fairness.



CORE BUSINESSES

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has two core businesses:

- Income and Employment Supports; and
- Social and Community Services.

Services are provided to Ontarians who are vulnerable and in need - adults, children and youth, people with physical and developmental disabilities, and aboriginal people.

Income and Employment Supports

The ministry provides income and employment supports to approximately 1.1 million Ontario residents who are most vulnerable and in need. Funding enables individuals and families to live as independently as possible within the community. Income support is provided to persons in need through the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works.

The Ontario Works program provides financial and employment assistance for single people, couples with and without children, sole support parents, and people aged 60 to 64 years. Mandatory participation is required in Ontario Works, the government's work-for-welfare program, to assist participants in moving as quickly as possible to a job.

The Ontario Disability Support Program provides income support for people with disabilities and ongoing supports to employment for people who want to work.

Social and Community Services

Social and community services are intended to ensure the provision of effective and accountable services directed to those most in need while reinvesting in more early intervention and prevention services.

Children's Services

The ministry provides funding for child welfare, children's mental health services and young offender rehabilitation. These services protect children from abuse or neglect; provide temporary or permanent guardianship for children separated from their families; place children for adoption; provide prevention and early intervention supports; provide counselling and treatment for children with emotional or behavioural problems and mental disorders; and provide other supports to children and youth at high risk.

Child Care

The ministry provides funding for child care services directed to Ontario Works recipients and other low income families with young children. The ministry sets standards and licenses child care programs and agencies. Funding supports fee subsidies, wages subsidies, special needs resourcing and resource centres. In addition, the government provides funding for a Child Care Supplement for Working Families and a Workplace Child Care Tax Deduction.

Developmental Services

The ministry provides funding for support to children and adults with developmental disabilities. Services are delivered largely through community-based agencies and provide supports to help adults live independently, help families care for adults and children at home, and help people contribute to and participate in their communities. Provincially-operated facilities provide supervised living and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities who require specialized care.

Adult Services

Through local agencies, the ministry provides supports and services for people with disabilities, including supports for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf/blind to support them to live independently in the community. The ministry funds temporary emergency shelters and counselling services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY 1997-98 ACHIEVEMENTS

The Ministry of Community and Social Services (MCSS) demonstrated progress in the key strategies outlined in its 1997-98 business plan.

Fundamental Reform of Social Assistance

Since June 1995, the government has been working to fundamentally reform Ontario's welfare system. Our reforms are already producing results. Over a quarter of a million people have stopped relying on welfare since June 1995, an overall decline of over 20 per cent in the social assistance caseload. Last year alone, the Ontario Works caseload dropped by over eight per cent and we expect that over the next year this number of people on welfare will drop another five per cent.

Ontario Works

The Ontario Works program was introduced in the fall of 1996 and is now up and running across Ontario. The *Ontario Works Act*, proclaimed on May 1, 1998, strengthens the government's ability to combat welfare fraud and abuse. It also eliminates the costly two-tiered delivery system by creating one system for delivering welfare at the municipal level. In addition, the Act requires all people on welfare, including single parents with children in school, to participate in Ontario Works, the mandatory workfare program.

This program gives people on welfare the opportunity to develop skills, make contacts with potential employers and give something back to their communities. The participation rate in mandatory Ontario Works activities grew this year from five per cent to 50 per cent in March of 1998.

The government is now moving to the next phase of its plan to convert welfare to work, which builds on the achievements to date.

Program Reform

In 1995, the government reduced social assistance rates and tightened eligibility. The rates remain at a level that is still on average 16 per cent above the average rates of the other nine provinces.

The ministry is introducing business process changes for verifying welfare eligibility and making improvements in the way income is reported by people on welfare. The ministry is also applying state-of-the-art technology to the social assistance program to support effective business practices. As a result, approximately 6,800 computers were installed in 200 local delivery sites as of March 1998.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The Legislature passed the *Ontario Disability Support Program Act* in November 1997. The government has kept its promise to move people with disabilities off the welfare system and onto the ODSP, which meets their unique needs while protecting their benefits. The Act was proclaimed in early June 1998. Over the next year, the ministry will continue to implement this program.

Fraud

The ministry's information sharing and fraud control measures have proven successful, resulting in approximately 14,800 cases where benefits were terminated or reduced because of fraud investigation. We set up a welfare fraud hotline that, so far, is saving taxpayers \$15 million. We have also developed information sharing agreements with the federal government, other provinces and other ministries to detect cases where people might be inappropriately collecting money from more than one government or program.

Investing in Services for Children

In 1997-98 the ministry focused on improving the lives of children in the following ways:

Child Protection

The ministry took action in response to concerns about the protection and safety of children, raised by Coroners' inquests and the Child Mortality Task Force. In 1997, the ministry directed all Children's Aid Societies (CASs) to use a mandatory risk assessment system. The risk assessment model for child protection provides help to front-line workers so that they can make better judgements about children at risk. The tool was developed and distributed to all CASs in October. Approximately 1,000 staff including all CAS managers and supervisors were trained on the new system last year. Training of all CAS staff across Ontario will be completed this year. In addition to CAS staff, approximately 500 professionals who work in ministry-funded children's programs other than the CASs were trained in identifying children at risk of abuse or neglect.

The ministry is committed to having the best risk assessment system in Canada. In addition to training, we have supported automation of the system and the development of specialized training programs related to high risk areas such as substance abuse, custody and access disputes and domestic violence.

Child protection workers need immediate access to specific information in order to protect children and therefore experts have worked with the ministry to design a computer system which will link all CASs across the province. The system will help CASs track child protection cases and respond appropriately when a child is at risk.

Front-line services were strengthened with a \$15 million investment to hire 220 child protection workers and supervisors and to support initiatives such as risk assessment training and the development of the computer system.

Three reviews have recently been completed to help the ministry develop further steps for more comprehensive child protection reform. These include an independent review of a random sample of child abuse and neglect cases in all 55 CASs; an external review to look at how the ministry can improve its management and monitoring of the child protection system; and a review by a panel of experts to examine the *Child and Family Services Act* to make suggested changes to better protect children.

Early Intervention

The Ontario government, through MCSS, will focus on early intervention and prevention services for children at risk.

The ministry has worked with the Ministry of Health to implement the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children initiative, an important new program which identifies "at risk" newborns and their families. Home visitors visit the family on a regular basis and provide information and referrals to other local services. As a result of the government's commitment last year of \$10 million in annualized funding, training was completed in 1997 and screening and home visits are now taking place.

Through the Preschool Speech and Language Services program, children with speech and language disorders are being identified and treated as early as possible to get the help they need before they start school. Last year, approximately 17,000 preschool children received services.

The ministry has implemented other early intervention programs including: a public awareness and education program through the Invest in Kids charitable foundation; a child nutrition program in partnership with the Canadian Living Foundation, through which a total of 56,000 children have received meals; and an ongoing commitment to the Better Beginnings, Better Futures program, through which more than 4,000 families with young children in eight economically disadvantaged communities have received support.

Child Care

Last year, the Ontario Ministry of Finance made changes to implement the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit and parents were able to apply for the tax credit on their 1997 tax form. During the past year, the licensed child care system increased by approximately 3,500 spaces, bringing the total to over 143,000 child care spaces in the province.

Making Services Work for People - Planning for Change

The Making Services Work for People policy initiative was released by the Minister in April, 1997. A province-wide community planning process was initiated to develop local plans for improving services to clients in the developmental and children's services sectors.

During the past year, planning took place in 33 areas which covered the entire province. Over 12,000 people participated in community advisory groups, subcommittees, focus groups, community forums and orientation sessions. Their input confirmed the need to improve services and provided excellent advice to the ministry on the next steps for reform.

Ministry local offices worked with community stakeholders to create plans to restructure in every community. Implementation will begin in the summer of 1998 and families will start seeing changes in the next year which make it easier to find out about the services that are available and to get the help they need earlier, before problems get worse.

Improved Supports for People with Disabilities

The ministry has continued to implement its commitment to community living for people with disabilities. MCSS has continued its initiative to close three government directly-run facilities and downsize the three remaining facilities. As a result of these changes, funds are also being reinvested to provide additional supports to people living in the community. In the last four years, this community living initiative has resulted in an investment of approximately \$27 million to support people to live in the community. In 1997-98, 321 adults with developmental disabilities moved from facilities to community settings.

In addition, in January 1997 the ministry provided \$15 million to support 3,500 people living in the community. The funding provided supports to aging parents with older children at home, young adults in transition to community programs, infant development programs, and the Special Services at Home program.

Creating New Partnerships with Other Levels of Government

A number of initiatives were undertaken to promote shared responsibility and the delivery of more integrated services.

A municipal-provincial committee, the Social and Community Health Services Implementation Team, provided advice to the government on Local Services Realignment implementation issues. Their work related to the transfer of responsibilities to municipalities by the Ministries of Health, Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Community and Social Services.

Three implementation documents were developed by provincial ministries in partnership with the municipal advisory group to assist in planning for change. These documents describe the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of municipalities and provincial ministries in terms of funding and programs.

The *Social Assistance Reform Act* and the *Services Improvement Act* were passed. These acts allowed for the transfer of funding responsibilities on January 1, 1998, new cost-sharing arrangements, and the step-by-step transfer of provincial program responsibilities to municipalities.

The ministry successfully negotiated the protection of Ontario's share of the federal cost-shared envelope for the new Employability Agreement for People with Disabilities, formerly the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement. This agreement has a clear focus on employability and labour market participation for people with disabilities.

KEY STRATEGIES AND COMMITMENTS

Over the next two to three years, the Ministry of Community and Social Services will continue to implement improvements in every area of the ministry's business as outlined in the following strategies.

1. Fundamental Transformation of Social Assistance

Our welfare reform initiatives are based on the premise that people are better off working than relying on welfare. Ontario's economy is improving and there are more jobs being created. Overall, 1998 promises to be one of the best years in Ontario's history for job creation. Our programs are aimed at helping people on welfare take advantage of these opportunities.

Ontario Works

Ontario Works is now up and running across Ontario and over 273,000 people have participated in one or more of the program's mandatory activities.

In the 1998 budget, the government announced \$35 million in additional funding to help single parents break the cycle of welfare dependency. The new Learning Earning and Parenting Program (LEAP) will provide \$25 million in child care subsidies and other supports to help single parents on welfare finish school. As well, in addition to the \$30 million already available to help Ontario Works participants with child care assistance, the government announced an additional \$10 million for child care assistance.

In the coming months, the government intends to build on the gains already made. The Ontario Works caseload is expected to decrease by an additional five per cent in 1998-99. Community placements in Ontario Works will be expanded, and we expect that in 1998-99, 60 per cent of eligible Ontario Works participants will take part in Ontario Works activities.

We will continue to look for ways to streamline and simplify a welfare system that is too complicated. We will also continue in our efforts to reduce welfare fraud and abuse to ensure that the system is there for those who need it most. The ministry expects to reduce or terminate welfare for up to 15,000 cases through a continued crackdown on fraud.

Ontario Disability Support Program

A new and separate program designed to move people with disabilities out of the welfare system is being implemented. The Ontario Disability Support Program creates a new income and employment supports program designed to meet the unique needs of people with disabilities.

The program focuses on improved access to employment supports and promotes independence for those who can and want to work. It means that people with disabilities will continue to receive the highest maximum provincial income support benefits among provinces.

The ministry worked closely with people with disabilities to design more flexible rules. These rules include a definition of disability that does not limit people's opportunities by labelling them "unemployable", better eligibility criteria, and a rapid reinstatement process if attempts at employment fail. People will be able to plan for the future by rule changes which allow them to keep assets to assist in emergencies and for unexpected costs. The many improvements in this program will provide people with disabilities with more control, flexibility and choice, and greater opportunities for independence.

All those currently eligible to receive social assistance under the old Family Benefits definition of disability or age will be automatically moved to the new ODSP program. For people coming into the system, they will be able to access the program more quickly through an improved adjudication process.

2. Implementation of Children's Initiatives Which Focus on Child Protection, Early Intervention and Prevention

Children are a priority for the government and the appointment of a Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Children has helped to focus our efforts in this area. A key part of our commitment to Ontario's future is an investment in early intervention and prevention services for families and children in order to achieve a good start in life and to support healthy development and safety.

Child Welfare Reform

In 1998-99, MCSS will continue its step-by-step plan to reform the child protection system. Specific initiatives already under way include: implementation of a standardized approach to risk assessment; more training for child protection workers; design of an interactive child protection computer database; funding to hire additional front-line protection workers.

The ministry has also completed the research needed to reform the system including reviews of how Children's Aid Societies manage child protection cases, how the ministry manages the CAS system, and a review of the child protection section of the *Child and Family Services Act*.

The steps taken to date are consistent with recommendations from these reports. Over the next year, MCSS will take additional steps, supported by funds announced in the 1998 Budget, including:

- adding child protection staff for investigation and assessment, front-line protection and supervision and, in particular, to implement the new risk assessment system;
- use of new technology to transform the way CASs do business. It will increase the capacity to respond quickly to child abuse and neglect and allow workers to monitor families and children more effectively;
- enhanced training, especially for new workers, so that new recruits will have the necessary skills and experience to do their jobs; and
- revitalizing foster care so that children can have access to safe and nurturing homes with skilled caregivers.

These initiatives are key elements of the new funding approach for child protection.

In addition, the ministry is committed to improved accountability to ensure that children are safe and that public funds are being spent where they are most needed.

Improvements to the Child Care System

Child care supports for Ontario Works participants will be expanded with an additional \$10 million investment. Our initiatives will be complemented by the new Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families and the new Workplace Child Care tax deduction for capital costs which will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance.

Integrated Services for Children

An important part of the ministry's agenda for children is our strategy to bring together services to support families better. MCSS is working to improve our response to the needs of Ontario's children and youth and their families, particularly in the area of prevention and early intervention. This work is being undertaken together with the Minister without Portfolio Responsible for Children, and other ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Training, and the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Two recent steps demonstrate Ontario's focus on early intervention and prevention.

Through the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children initiative, screening of newborns in hospitals in the province is taking place to identify at risk children. Through this important new intervention, home visitors then visit the high risk family on a regular basis and provide information and referrals to other local services. As a result of the government's funding commitment last year, the program is well underway, with screening and home visiting now taking place. Ontario is the first province in Canada to provide a province-wide initiative with intensive long-term home visiting. In this year's budget, the commitment was enriched so that it will grow to a \$50 million annual program by 2000-01. This year, local health units will provide home visiting services to 9,000 families with children (prenatal to age two), which is estimated to be all of the high risk babies born in the province.

A second early intervention initiative is the Preschool Speech and Language Services program. Children with speech and language disorders are being identified and treated as early as possible, to get the help they need before they start school. Ontario is unique in its leadership role with this initiative, which identifies children with communication disorders before the age of two, and provides services to these children and their families. In the coming year, we will expand the services being provided to children who have speech and language problems and we will continue to reduce the waiting time for receiving services.

The ministry is working with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts to improve and strengthen the system of social services across the country, especially for children. Through the National Child Benefit strategy, Ontario will be directing funding to programs which help prevent and reduce child poverty and assist working families to stay in the labour force. Ontario will reinvest more than \$150 million of social assistance savings to low income families with children. Funding has been targeted to enhance the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families. As a result of our cost-sharing arrangements with municipalities, we will continue to work with our municipal partners as we move to implement these reinvestment strategies.

3. Continued Implementation of Change to Social Services to Better Meet People's Needs

The government has made a commitment to reshape our outdated system of social services, changing not only what services are delivered but how they are delivered. In 1998, the ministry will continue this work through the following activities.

Making Services Work For People

Making Services Work For People is a multi-year initiative to restructure social services to better meet people's needs. The goal of this work is to create a shift from services that are overlapping, inefficient and frustrating to find, to services that are easier to find, more effective and available earlier, before people's needs become more serious.

This year, local ministry offices together with community partners will begin implementing plans for improving the system of services for children and people with developmental disabilities across Ontario. One result of this work will be that more communities will have better access to services, through integrated, co-ordinated access points to services, so that people will not have to go from place to place searching for the services they need. We will increase the number of integrated, coordinated access points to approximately 38 this year, covering 25 per cent of the province.

The ministry will also be looking at other ways to improve the service system for families and clients as part of a multi-year initiative for continuous improvement.

Improved Supports for People with Disabilities

In the coming year, the ministry will develop and maintain services to support people with developmental disabilities living in the community and create opportunities for 306 people now residing in our directly operated facilities to live in community settings with an investment of approximately \$17 million in the community. We are on track with our commitment to move people to community settings through the closure of three government-run facilities and downsizing of the three remaining facilities. Funds will be reinvested to provide additional supports to people living in the community.

We will continue to redirect funds as they become available to community development for people already living in the community and we expect this to be about \$10 million over the next two years. In April 1998, MCSS reinvested \$3 million dollars to provide community support for up to 1,000 people, with a focus on aging parents with older children at home and the Special Services at Home program.

Enhancing Young Offenders Services

In the next year, the ministry will continue our work on the establishment of baseline data on repeat young offender crime in partnership with the Ministry of Solicitor General and Correctional Services (MSGCS) and Justice Canada. We will work in partnership with MSGCS to gather ongoing data on repeat offences for young offenders leaving custody, to support our goal of reducing youth crime.

4. Work with Other Levels of Government to Promote Shared Responsibility and to Deliver More Integrated Services

The ministry will continue to plan for and implement change with partners at other levels of government through the following activities.

Implementing the Provincial-Municipal Services Realignment

The consolidated municipal service managers for Ontario Works, child care, and social housing were announced in June, 1998. Work is continuing to support municipalities as they move toward consolidation for the purposes of delivering social assistance, child care and social housing and possibly land ambulance and public health.

Homelessness Task Force

The government has initiated a provincial Task Force on Homelessness, chaired by Jack Carroll, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Community and Social Services. The task force will make recommendations on how to improve supports and services provided by municipalities and community agencies to homeless people and on how to allocate \$4 million from MCSS to assist municipalities in this work.

Federal / Provincial Initiatives

The ministry is working with other provinces and territories on a number of important child welfare projects including: research on outcomes in child welfare; a survey on the incidence of child abuse and neglect; development of enhanced risk assessment systems; and mechanisms to improve services for children in residential care.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Core Business: Income and Employment Supports			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Recipients of Ontario Works achieve self reliance and return to work.	# of people receiving social assistance (Ontario Works) is reduced.	Continue to increase self-reliance by reducing welfare dependency on average 5% a year from 1995-98.	Ontario Works caseload is decreased by 5%.
Recipients of Ontario Works are actively preparing to return to work.	% of people participating in Ontario Works activities.	100% of Ontario Works eligible participants participate in Ontario Works activities by 2000/01	60% of Ontario Works eligible participants participate in Ontario Works activities.
People in need with clearly assessed disabilities receive income support in a separate program.	% of people with clearly assessed disabilities receiving income support in a separate program.	100% of eligible people with disabilities receive benefits in a separate program by 1999-2000.	Changes to introduce the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) implemented across the Province. Ministry offices deliver ODSP using new tools (e.g., new policy manual and new delivery processes introduced later in the fiscal year).
Disability determination is done in a timely manner using consistent standards.	Time required to adjudicate disability is reduced from that of the current Medical Advisory Board.	Disability adjudication is completed within 6 to 8 weeks of receiving a completed application.	A centralized Disability Adjudication Unit is established and determines eligibility for ODSP in 75% of cases within 6-8 weeks of receipt of the completed application (where no additional expertise is required).

Core Business: Income and Employment Supports			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Employment supports help people with disabilities find and maintain employment.	# of individuals receiving supports that become employed or are enabled to undertake activities directly leading to employment.	By the year 2000, 12,000 people with disabilities will receive supports to employment (an increase of approximately 25% over Vocational Rehabilitation Services activity).	<p>Proclamation of <i>Ontario Disability Support Program Act</i> June, 1998.</p> <p>New service delivery model for the Employment Supports Program implemented.</p> <p>Delivery agent for home and vehicle modifications program selected and program operational.</p> <p>Non-employment related services under current program secured and delivery responsibility re-aligned to improve client service.</p>
Reduced fraud in the social assistance system.	# of cases with reduced or terminated welfare due to the review of fraud referrals from all sources including information sharing, hotline or local referrals.	Continue to crack down on welfare fraud by reducing or terminating financial assistance for 15,000 cases in 1998-99.	Reducing or terminating financial assistance for approximately 15,000 cases through the continuation of the crackdown on fraud.

Core Business: Social and Community Services			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Families and individuals in need will have improved access to a more integrated service system.	# of integrated access points to children's and developmental services.	100% of the province will have integrated access, covered by approximately 150 integrated access points, by 99-00.	25% of the province will have integrated access, covered by approximately 38 integrated access points.

Core Business: Social and Community Services

Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
To provide a broader, more flexible range of choices so that more families can receive assistance with the cost of child care.	The number of children benefiting from assistance provided for the cost of child care.	450,000 children will benefit through fee subsidies, Ontario Works child care assistance, Learning, Earning and Parenting (LEAP) program, the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families, Supports to Employment Program (STEP) and the Workplace Child Care Tax Deduction.	<p>Implement the LEAP program, including child care assistance, across the province.</p> <p>Work with Ministry of Finance to promote both the Child Care Supplement for Working Families and the Workplace Child Care Tax Deduction.</p> <p>Maintain service levels and make regulation changes to allow municipal delivery agents to manage the delivery of child care services as part of local government realignment.</p>
Improved outcomes for children at risk, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (and Ministry of Education and Training).	Number of high risk families receiving lay home visiting services and/or linked with other appropriate services.	100% of high risk families, assessed as eligible, are provided with lay home visiting services and/or linked with other appropriate services.	<p>Establishment of baseline data for % of births screened and assessed</p> <p>Provision of lay home visiting services to 9,000 families with children (prenatal to age 2). This is estimated to be 100% of the high risk population.</p>
Increased safety and protection of children.	Improved capacity of front-line CAS staff to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect.	100% of CAS supervisors and front-line workers trained in new risk assessment and management tool by summer 1998.	<p>Continue to review and enhance the training strategy.</p> <p>Over 4,000 (100%) of front-line staff and supervisors trained. All CASs have in-house capacity to train new workers and supervise all front-line staff.</p>
	Improved capacity of other children's services professionals to identify children at risk of abuse or neglect.	100% of other children's services professionals to be trained in the new risk assessment and management tool.	Train 500 other children's services professionals.

Core Business: Social and Community Services

Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
More effective business practices and technology for child protection.	Implementation of common technology for child protection.	Technology implemented in all 55 Children's Aid Societies.	Fast track system implemented in all 55 CAS's, giving access to 900 front-line staff (intake and night duty staff), to conduct prior contact checks and child abuse alerts. Design for comprehensive case management & agency management information system completed.
Better protection for society through effective measures to reduce youth crime.	Reduced level of recidivism for offenders leaving custody and community programs.	Reduction of 5% by 2000-01 in the 4 year recidivism rate for 12-15 year old young offenders in Ontario, compared to baseline data of those completing dispositions in 1992-93.	Establishment of 1992-93 baseline recidivism data in partnership with MSGCS and Justice Canada. Work with MSGCS, to gather on-going data on young offenders.
People with developmental disabilities are integrated into communities where they live.	# of adults with developmental disabilities moved from provincially-operated institutions and supported in local communities.	In 1996 the total number of people residing in provincially operated institutions was 2,200. By March 31, 2000, MCSS plans to reduce that number by 950.	306 individuals with developmental disabilities will move from provincial institutions to community placements.

1997-98 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS - INTERIM ACTUALS*

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Operating	\$8,010M
Capital	\$31M
	7,705 Staff**

Income and Employment Supports

Social Assistance & Employment	\$5,547M
Program & Field Administration	\$41M***
	2,480 Staff***

Community and Social Services for People In Need

Child Care	\$552M****
Children's Services - Other	\$826M
Developmental Services	\$842M
Adults' Social Services	\$140M
Program & Field Administration	\$32M
Capital	\$31M
	4,890 Staff

Business Supports

Ministry Administration	\$30M
	335 Staff

* Figures include accruals as required by PSAAB

** Staff figures shown in Full Time Equivalents

*** Total figures include resources for the Social & Community Health project

**** Does not include total provincial commitments to child care (excludes the Ontario Child Care Tax Credit and municipal spending due to Local Services Realignment)

1998-99 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS - PLANNED SPENDING*

Ministry of Community and Social Services

Operating	\$7,848M
Capital	\$20M
	7,135 Staff**

Income and Employment Supports

Social Assistance & Employment	\$5,306M
Program & Field Administration	\$30M***
	2,315 Staff***

Community and Social Services for People In Need

Child Care	\$594M****
Children's Services - Other	\$885M
Developmental Services	\$827M
Adults' Social Services	\$147M
Program & Field Administration	\$29M
Capital	\$20M
	4,480 Staff

Business Supports

Ministry Administration	\$30M
	340 Staff

* Figures include accruals as required by PSAAB

** Staff figures shown in Full Time Equivalents

*** Total figures include resources for the Social & Community Health Project

**** Does not include total provincial commitments to child care (excludes the Ontario Child Care Supplement for Working Families, the Workplace Child Care Tax Deduction and municipal spending due to Local Services Realignment). This figure includes \$9M anticipated to be spent on child care related activities for children with developmental disabilities. In 97/98, the funds were reflected in the Developmental Services sub-line.

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the Ministry's business plan are welcomed.

Minister's Office
Denise Cole
Executive Assistant
(416) 325-5233

Client Information and
Support Services Office
Nita Azuga
Ph.: (416) 325-1957
Fax: (416) 325-8207

or

visit our Internet site at: <http://www.gov.on.ca/CSS>
Email: webcss@gov.on.ca

Copies of this document are available free from:

Publications Ontario Bookstore

880 Bay Street, Toronto ON M7A 1N8

Telephone: (416) 326-5300

Out-of-town customers except Ottawa call: 1-800-668-9938

In Ottawa, call (613) 238-3630 or, toll free 1-800-268-8758

Telephone service for the hearing impaired is available,
toll-free throughout Ontario at 1-800-268-7095

Order copies via the Internet at <http://www.publications.gov.on.ca>

For an electronic copy of this document, visit the Ontario Government
web site at <http://www.gov.on.ca> under "What's New"

© Queen's Printer for Ontario, 1998

ISBN 0-7778-7496-2

Ce document est disponible en français



Oxford[®]



ESSELTE

10%

